proposals approved during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) by the when the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The number of existing coal based power plants in the country are 74.

(b) and (c) There are 8 proposals for consideration of coal linkage, for which final decisions have not been taken.

The no. of proposals for which coal linkage has been approved in the past 3 years, statewise is as given under :

	1996	1995	1994
West Bengal	1	-	2
Orissa	1	1	-
U.P.	1	1	-
Bihar	-	-	1
M.P.	2	6	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	1
Mizoram	1	-	-
Maharashtra	-	-	3
Gujarat	1	-	2
Andhra Pradesh	3	-	-
	10	8	9

(d) Clearance of proposal will depend upon decision of Standing Linkage Committee meetings held periodically after examining the feasibility of linkage in consultation with coal companies, Ministry of Railway and other details on the thermal power stations furnished by CEA/Ministry of Power.

Public Sector Undertakings

56. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings are likely to be categorised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Public Sector Undertakings have been categorised into 4 Schedules, namely, Schedule 'A', Schedule 'B', Schedule 'C' and Schedule 'D' taking into consideration various quantitative and qualitative factors like investment (paid up capital plus long term loans), capital employed, net sales, profitability, number of employees, number of units, national importance, complexities of problems, level of technology employed, prospects for expansion/diversification, competition from other sectors, etc. At present there are 42 Schedule 'A', 89 Schedule 'B', 64 Schedule 'C' and 13 Schedule 'D' companies.

Foreign Investment

57. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's decision to expand the list of industries where automatic approvals of foreign equity are permitted has had any impact on the flow of foreign investment in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Since the expansion of the list of industries for automatic approval for foreign investment has been done recently vide Press Note No. 2 dt. 17.1.97, it is premature to comment on its immediate impact on the inflow of foreign investment.

Weigh-bridges on Railway Siding

58. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway siding in Bharat Coking Coal Limited with weighbridges on it,

(b) the number of electronic weighbridges out of it alongwith the number of such electronic weighbridges which are in working condition;

(c) whether the Government are aware that coal is being sold from these bridges without weighing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it and punish the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Coal India Ltd. have reported that no siding in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., (BCCL) has any Railway weighbridge. Most of the wagons are being weighed in the Railway yard which cater to the needs of different sidings under the command area of that yard. However, BCCL have installed 23 weighbridges either in Railway yards or in different sidings. Out of this, 22 weighbridges are electronic. All of these weighbridges are presently reported to be operational.

(c) Except when there is breakdown of weighbridges all the coal rakes passing through the weighbridges in BCCL are weighed before despatch.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

Special Courts

59. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for early disposal of corruption cases in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such courts are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) Under Section 3 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 the Central Government or the State